

(Pub. L. 108-148, title V, §507, Dec. 3, 2003, 117 Stat. 1914.)

#### § 6578. Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subchapter—

- (1) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2004; and
- (2) such sums as are necessary for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2008.

(Pub. L. 108-148, title V, §508, Dec. 3, 2003, 117 Stat. 1914.)

### SUBCHAPTER VI—MISCELLANEOUS

#### § 6591. Forest stands inventory and monitoring program to improve detection of and response to environmental threats

##### (a) In general

The Secretary of Agriculture shall carry out a comprehensive program to inventory, monitor, characterize, assess, and identify forest stands (with emphasis on hardwood forest stands) and potential forest stands—

- (1) in units of the National Forest System (other than those units created from the public domain); and
- (2) on private forest land, with the consent of the owner of the land.

##### (b) Issues to be addressed

In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall address issues including—

- (1) early detection, identification, and assessment of environmental threats (including insect, disease, invasive species, fire, and weather-related risks and other episodic events);
- (2) loss or degradation of forests;
- (3) degradation of the quality forest stands caused by inadequate forest regeneration practices;
- (4) quantification of carbon uptake rates; and
- (5) management practices that focus on preventing further forest degradation.

##### (c) Early warning system

In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall develop a comprehensive early warning system for potential catastrophic environmental threats to forests to increase the likelihood that forest managers will be able to—

- (1) isolate and treat a threat before the threat gets out of control; and
- (2) prevent epidemics, such as the American chestnut blight in the first half of the twentieth century, that could be environmentally and economically devastating to forests.

##### (d) Authorization of appropriations

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2008.

(Pub. L. 108-148, title VI, §601, Dec. 3, 2003, 117 Stat. 1914.)

## CHAPTER 85—MARINE TURTLE CONSERVATION

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#### § 6601. Findings and purposes

##### (a) Findings

The Congress finds that—

(1) marine turtle populations have declined to the point that the long-term survival of the loggerhead, green, hawksbill, Kemp's ridley, olive ridley, and leatherback turtle in the wild is in serious jeopardy;

(2) 6 of the 7 recognized species of marine turtles are listed as threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), and all 7 species have been included in Appendix I of CITES;

(3) because marine turtles are long-lived, late-maturing, and highly migratory, marine turtles are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of human exploitation and habitat loss;

(4) illegal international trade seriously threatens wild populations of some marine turtle species, particularly the hawksbill turtle;

(5) the challenges facing marine turtles are immense, and the resources available have not been sufficient to cope with the continued loss of nesting habitats caused by human activities and the consequent diminution of marine turtle populations;

(6) because marine turtles are flagship species for the ecosystems in which marine turtles are found, sustaining healthy populations of marine turtles provides benefits to many other species of wildlife, including many other threatened or endangered species;

(7) marine turtles are important components of the ecosystems that they inhabit, and studies of wild populations of marine turtles have provided important biological insights;

(8) changes in marine turtle populations are most reliably indicated by changes in the numbers of nests and nesting females; and

(9) the reduction, removal, or other effective addressing of the threats to the long-term viability of populations of marine turtles will require the joint commitment and effort of—

(A) countries that have within their boundaries marine turtle nesting habitats; and

(B) persons with expertise in the conservation of marine turtles.

##### (b) Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to assist in the conservation of marine turtles and the nesting habitats of marine turtles in foreign countries by supporting and providing financial resources for projects to conserve the nesting habitats, conserve marine turtles in those habitats, and address other threats to the survival of marine turtles.

(Pub. L. 108-266, §2, July 2, 2004, 118 Stat. 791.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, referred to in subsec. (a)(2), is Pub. L. 93-205, Dec. 28, 1973, 87 Stat.